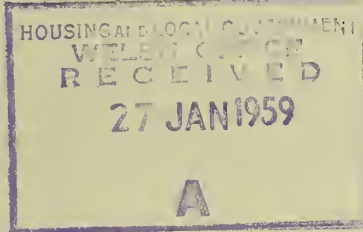


RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MACHYNLLETH

THE ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
and of the  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR - 1957



CHAIRMAN - R.L. Williams, Esq.

VICE-CHAIRMAN G. Stanley Hughes Esq.

COUNCILLORS:- Messrs L.R. Williams  
E.R. Hughes  
Dan Butler  
David Wigley

Morris Griffiths  
W. I. Jones  
Thomas Hughes  
Richard Jones

STAFF:

MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

Amelia Evans, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch. D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

D. Bryn Jones Cert. S.I.E.J.B.



To the Chairman and Members of the  
Machynlleth Rural District Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary arrangements in your district for the year 1957 - which is arranged in accordance with the Welsh Board of Health Circular 1/58 (Wales)

STAFF: There were no staff changes in 1957

VITAL STATISTICS:

The birth rate for 1957 was 11.51 per 1,000 population, comparing with 11.51 in 1956. The rate for the Rural Districts in the County was 15.32 and for the whole County was 15.22 per 1,000 population

There was 1 still birth, giving a rate of 2.9% of live births in 1957 compared with none in 1956. In the rural districts the still birth rate was 3.6% and in the whole County 3.8%

There were 2 illegitimate births, giving a rate of 5.6% of total births in 1957, compared with 8.6% in 1956. The rate for the Rural districts was 4.1% and for the whole County 3.24%

INFANT MORTALITY

There were no deaths of infants in the first year of their life. The rate in 1956 was 57 per 1,000 live births. The rate for the Rural areas in 1957 was 17 and in the whole County 22 per 1,000 live births.

DEATHS

There were 51 deaths from all causes, giving a rate of 16.78% per 1,000 population compared with 12.83 in 1956. The rates in the Rural districts were 12.27 in the whole County 11.82 per 1,000 population.

There was one death from Tuberculosis

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948  
SECTION 47.

No action was taken in 1957

HOUSING

The 20 houses at Esgairgeiliog were completed and let for occupation very early in the year

A site at Derwenlas for 8 houses was selected and lay-out plans have been prepared and considered by the Council

WATER SUPPLY

As usual, the water supplies have been unsatisfactory.

It was necessary to ration water at Cwmllyn, Cemmaes and Penegoes early in the Spring of 1957.

Samples of water from each village supply are taken regularly and they vary in their wholesomeness.



The high light of the year with regard to water supplies was the Public Enquiry into the Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme proposed by the Council. This Enquiry was conducted by an Engineer from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in October 1957. There was no doubt that there exists a need for an adequate and safe supply of water in this district, but there were many objectors to one large Scheme to supply the whole area. By the end of 1957 we had not obtained the result of the Enquiry.

In connection with this Enquiry many farms which could be supplied from the Scheme, had their water supplies subjected to bacteriological examination and over 200 samples were collected.

#### SANITATION

The Council own no public sewerage works, and only the Council houses have septic tank installations maintained by the Council.

It is to be hoped that the Council will proceed to sewer the larger villages at least, in conjunction with the arrival of the water supply.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION

Domestic refuse is collected once a week and the tip is situated at Commins Coch where controlled tipping is carried out.

#### ABATTOIR

There is one private slaughterhouse at Cemmaes and all the meat is inspected by the Public Health Inspector - who will give details of condemnations in his report.

I would again like to thank the Clerk and his clerical staff for the assistance and kindness they always show me. Mr Jones, despite the amount of work he has to do, is always most co-operative, and the Council certainly have a keen interest in the work of the Public Health Department and I know it is the Council's desire to make every effort to raise the standard of living of the people in this district.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

AMELIA EVANS

Medical Officer of Health.

TOWN HALL,  
NEWTOWN.

April 1958





STATISTICS

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Area in acres	98,564	98,564
Population (Registrar General's Mid Year Estimate)	3,040	3,040
Rateable Value	£12,366	£12,470
Product of a Penny Rate	£47. 7s. 2d.	£40.

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>1957</u>			<u>1956</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	20	13	33	16	16	32
Illegitimate	-	2	2	2	1	3
Total	20	15	35	18	17	35

Births per 1,000 population:


(a) Machynlleth R.D.	11.51	11.51
(b) Rural Districts in County	15.32	15.05
(c) Whole County	15.22	15.0
For England and Wales	16.1	

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Still births on percentage of live births	1 male legitimate	----
(a) Machynlleth R.D.	2.9%	----
(b) Rural Districts of County	3.6%	1.2
(c) Whole County	3.8%	1.8
For England and Wales	2.24%	

INFANT MORTALITY

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	--	-2
Rate per 1,000 live births	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
(a) Machynlleth R.D.	--	57
(b) Rural Districts of Council	17	32
(c) Whole County	22	30
For England and Wales	23.0	



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DEATHS - ALL CAUSES

	<u>1957</u>			<u>1956</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total:	22	29	51	22	17	39
Death rate per 1,000 population:						
(a) Machynlleth R.D.C.		16.78			12.83	
(b) Rural Districts of County		12.27			11.81	
(c) Whole County		11.82			12.19	
For England and Wales		11.5.				

<u>AGE AT DEATH</u>	<u>1957</u>			<u>1956</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Age in years						
Under 1	-	-	-	-	2	2
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	1	1	2	-	-	-
35 -	1	-	1	1	-	1
45 -	1	3	4	1	1	2
55 -	3	3	6	2	1	3
65 -	8	10	18	7	4	11
75 -	7	7	14	10	6	16
85 and over	1	5	6	1	3	4
TOTAL	22	29	51	22	17	39

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>1957</u>			<u>1956</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	1	1	1	-	1
Other Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	1	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	1	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-



CAUSES OF DEATH (Cont.)	1957			1956		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Malignant neoplasm - Stomach	L	4	5	4	-	4
" " - Lung and bronchus	-	-	-	-	-	-
" " - Breast	-	2	2	-	-	-
" " - Uterus	-	1	1	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	4	7	3	2	5
Leukaemia	-	-	-	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	5	6	3	2	5
Coronary disease - Angina	6	1	7	3	3	6
Hypertension with Heart disease	1	-	1	-	1	1
Other heart disease	3	5	8	3	5	8
Other circulatory disease	1	1	2	-	-	-
Influenza	-	1	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	2	2	-	-	-
Bronchitis	1	1	2	-	-	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis, nephrosis	1	2	3	-	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill defined diseases	-	1	1	1	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1	-	-	-
All other accidents	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-
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TOTAL:	22	29	51	22	17	39
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#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Scarlet fever	-
Whooping Cough	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	4
Measles	13
Diphtheria	-
Dysentery	-
Meningococcal infections	--
Acute pneumonia	-
Small-pox	-
Acute encephalitis	-
Typhoid fever	-
Paratyphoid fever	-
Erysipelas	1 (a man of 54 years)
Food poisoning	-



The cases of Acute Poliomyelitis occurred more or less in the same district, but no direct contact could be found between them.

There were 3 males involved ages 6, 16 and 35 and one female of 14 years. One of these cases proved fatal - the man of 35 years.

The others showed evidence of paralysis, though fortunately the paralysis was not of a severe degree.

Each of the homes were visited and as can be imagined in a small district such as this, the water supply and sanitation left much to be desired.

As a precaution the School at Llanbrynmair was closed for some 10 days since all the teachers there had been in contact with the fatal case.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis during 1957 was carried out with the British vaccine only and since supplies then were very limited only a comparatively small number of children were vaccinated. With the arrival of Canadian and American vaccine early in 1958, this programme will be intensified and it is hoped that all the children - ages 6 months to 15 years - whose parents have asked for this protection, will be vaccinated by mid - 1958

#### AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF MEASLES

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Under 1 year	-	-
1 year -	-	1
2 years -	1	-
3 years -	2	1
4 years -	-	1
5 - 9 years	2	4
10 - 14 years	-	1
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TOTAL:	5	8
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#### TUBERCULOSIS

6 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year:-

- (1) Male aged 20 with lungs infected and a right pleural effusion;
- (2) Female aged 53 with lungs and meninges infected;
- (3) Male aged 13, with right pleural effusion
- (4) Male aged 71 with silico tuberculosis;
- (5) Female aged 31, with tuberculosis peritonitis;





(6) Male of 58 years with pulmonary tuberculosis. Here the diagnosis was later changed to bronchial carcinoma

3 cases were removed from the register:-

- (1) Male who was 44 when he was notified with pulmonary tuberculosis in 1954. He has moved from the district
- (2) Male who was 62 in 1956 when notified with pulmonary tuberculosis also left the district.
- (3) Female aged 53 years who was notified earlier in the year and who died from pulmonary and meningical tuberculosis.

At the end of the year there were 26 notified cases of Tuberculosis living in the district.

In the Summer term B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis was offered to children aged 13 who attend the Machynlleth High School.

This vaccination is a lengthy procedure. First of all the children are MANTOUX tested, that is, given a small intra-dermal injection of tuberculin. The result is taken after 2 days.

Those children who give positive results have at some time had an infection with tuberculosis although so slight that it does not show as a diagnosed case of tuberculosis. It means that because of this previous infection these children have some immunity to the disease and it is not necessary to vaccinate them.

Those children who show a tuberculin negative reaction are then vaccinated and 6 weeks later these vaccinated children are again Mantoux tested to find out if they are now building up an immunity to the disease.

These are the results at the High School, Machynlleth:-

Number eligible for vaccination	- 98
Number who consented	- 78
Number Mantoux tested	- 73 (5 absent)
Number Mantoux positive	- 12
Number Mantoux negative	- 61
Number who were vaccinated with B.C.G.	- 54 (7 absent)
Post B.C.G. Mantoux tested	- 49 (5 absent)

All were Mantoux positive

The children who gave positive reactions to the first Mantoux test were followed up by the Health Visitor and their contacts invited to attend the Chest Clinic.



THE GENERAL PROVISION FOR HEALTH  
SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

AMBULANCE

The local Service consists of the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee.

(Telephone: Machynlleth 158 and 179)

SITTING-CASE CAR SERVICE

Enquiries should be made to - The County Health Office  
(Telephone Newtown 205)

CHILDREN'S OFFICER

This Office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Children's Act 1948. The Officer is:-

Mr. W.E. Jones,  
County Offices,  
Welshpool

(Telephone Welshpool 3311)

The Children's Home is at -

12, Bronwylfa,  
Welshpool

(Telephone - Welshpool 3109).

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

The district is served by:-

Nurs M. Jones  
2 Maglona Villas,  
Machynlleth - Telephone - Machynlleth 129

Her area covers - Derwenlas, Aberhosan, Melinbarhedyn,  
Forge, Uwchygarreg, Pantperthog and Penegoes

Sister M.E. Ryder - Resigned 18/6/1957  
Penybanc,  
Cwmlline - Telephone Aberangell 225.

Her area covers - Cemmaes Road, Darowen, Talywern, Cemmaes  
Abercegir, Llanwrin, and Commins Coch

Sister L. Evans  
Glasfryn,  
Llanbrynmair - Telephone - Llanbrynmair  
234

Her area covers - Llanbrynmair, Staylitttle, Talerddig.

HEALTH VISITOR

Miss Eunice Jones  
Gaewern  
Corris

Health Visitor for the whole of the district - Telephone Corris 225.



### HOME HELP SERVICE

Particulars of this Service can be obtained from the Supervisor:-

Mrs Rhoda Goodwin  
County Offices  
Newtown

Telephone - Newtown 205

### LABORATORY SERVICE

A branch of the Public Health Laboratory Service is at the Cardiganshire General Hospital, Aberystwyth under the direction of Dr. M.V.N. Sudds - (Telephone Aberystwyth 216)

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The County Council is responsible for this Service. Infant Welfare Clinic serving the area are held at:-

- (1) Doll Street, Machynlleth (Second and fourth Tuesday  
in the afternoon)
- (2) Llanbrynmair Village Hall (Second Thursday in the  
afternoon)
- (3) Llwynygog, Staylittle (On the third Thursday in  
the afternoon)

### TUBERCULOSIS

This Service is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board. The Chest Physician, Dr. G.O. Thomas holds clinics every Wednesday at the Machynlleth Chest Hospital at 10.0.a.m.

### VACCINATION

Vaccination against Small Pox is carried out by the local general practitioners and at the Machynlleth Infant Welfare Clinic.

### DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH PROPHYLAXIS

Following a recommendation from the Medical Research Council, it is now the practice to offer these injections separately and not in combined form as in previous years. In this case, protection against Whooping Cough, consisting of three injections at monthly intervals is commenced at 3 months, followed by two injections for Diphtheria.





## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply in the area is much the same as has been reported previously. With the exception of the village of Esgairgeiliog, which has a piped supply of water received in bulk from Dolgelley Rural District Council and Aberangell which is in a Fringe Order Area and also received water from the above-mentioned Council, the remainder of the district relies upon springs and wells for drinking water which is most unsatisfactory from the point of view of quantity. The quality on the whole is satisfactory but owing to the fact that they are untreated, a considerable amount of time has to be devoted to the collection of samples from these springs at frequent intervals.

The Council own a few small water schemes but these are also unsatisfactory as whenever there is slightest drought, rationing of water has to be introduced.

The Council has been deeply concerned about the water supply and quite some time ago they engaged the services of Consulting Engineers who presented their report to the Council upon a Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme. This was considered and has in fact, been the subject of a Public Inquiry which was held in the latter part of the year.

### HOUSING.

No houses were built during the year but the Council is endeavouring to purchase a site at Derwenlas when some 8 houses will be built.

The general standard of the houses in the district is very low but the Council is not able to embark upon any comprehensive housing programme until there is an improved water supply in the area.

A small number of applications for improvement grants was received and approved during the year, but improvement schemes are of necessity limited owing to the lack of a proper water supply.

One or two houses were closed during the year.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Here again the Council is seriously handicapped from building further houses owing to the fact that there is no main sewerage scheme in the area. What sewerage schemes there are, are small ones solely for the use of the Council's houses.

Individual improvements, under grants are also seriously affected by this lack of a main sewerage scheme.

The Council, however have instructed their Consulting Engineers to prepare a sewerage scheme for the village of Cemmaes.

### HILL FARMING AND LIVESTOCK REARING ACTS, 1946-56

Quite a number of farms have availed themselves of the facilities offered under the above Acts to improve their farmhouses by installing a piped supply of water, bathroom, hot and cold water system and main drainage.

### FOOD.

There are two premises in the area which are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the sale of ice cream and



there is one premises in respect of which : Dealer's Licence has been issued under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

These premises are periodically inspected and have been found in good order.

There was no occasion for special examination of a stock or consignment of food.

All the shops in the district are of the small 'one-man' type and no action under the Shops Act was taken.

#### MEAT INSPECTION.

92 carcasses of beef, 1424 carcasses of sheep and lambs and 47 carcasses of pigs were inspected during the year.

36lbs of Beast's liver and 27lbs of sheep liver were condemned.

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

A part-time operator is employed by the Council. One minor infestation at a farm was successfully dealt with. At one period the Council's own refuse tip was infested by rats. Treatment was carried out and the nuisance was abated.

#### REFUSE REMOVAL.

The Council carry out the removal of refuse by direct labour. The collection is a weekly one and the refuse is deposited upon a Council owned tip which is controlled to some degree.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are a number of rivers and streams in the area and despite the fact the Council has a refuse collection scheme some householders persist in depositing a certain amount of refuse in the nearby rivers but the degree of pollution is very small and there has been no need to take any action.

#### OFFENSIVE TRADES

Number in district	...	...	...	...	NIL.
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

#### BEDBUG INFESTATIONS

Cases reported	...	...	...	...	NIL
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

#### RAG FLOCK ACT

Number of premises where rag flock is manufactured used or sold	...	...	...	...	NIL.
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

#### VISITS.

Total number of visits re various works, water supplied, houses housing sites, inspections of nuisances etc.,	...	1,860
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#### NUISANCES

Number of inspections made	...	...	...	14
Number of Informal Notices	...	...	...	8
Number complied with,	...	...	...	7

